

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 83

By Ketron

A RESOLUTION to express support for Tennessee's Energy Efficient Schools Council.

WHEREAS, in 2008, the General Assembly created the Energy Efficient Schools Council pursuant to Chapter 1188 of the Public Acts of 2008; and

WHEREAS, one of the purposes of the Energy Efficient Schools Council is to award grants or loans to school systems for qualifying capital outlay projects and to establish and support ongoing energy management programs; and

WHEREAS, over \$87 million has been approved for projects to improve the energy efficiency in Tennessee's public K-12 schools; and

WHEREAS, currently two school systems in Middle Tennessee are experiencing cost savings due to the Energy Efficient Schools Council's energy saving initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Rutherford County Schools is experiencing significant savings in utility expenses due to grants and low interest loans from the Energy Efficient Schools Initiative; and

WHEREAS, Smyrna Primary School received a "green school" designation from an independent source for being in the top twenty-five percent of schools nationwide for energy savings due to energy savings initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Efficient Schools Council requires state budget funding to expand loans, grant programs, and technical assistance for Tennessee's public schools; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Efficient Schools Council has operated without additional state budget funding since its creation by the General Assembly in 2008 and has been using loan repayments to rebuild its initial \$90 million funding from lottery proceeds; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, that we hereby express our support for the Energy Efficient Schools Council and the expansion of opportunities in Tennessee school districts to become more energy efficient, thereby reducing the tax burden for Tennessee taxpayers.